

FRENCH SPOILIATIONS.

RESOLUTIONS

THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE,

Relative to French spoliations.

FEBRUARY 21, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

STATE OF MAINE,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Augusta, February 5, 1844.

SIR: In compliance with the request of the Legislature of this State, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a report and "resolves respecting French spoliations prior to the year 1800," adopted by that body on the 1st instant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. J. ANDERSON.

To the Hon. R. P. DUNLAP.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *January 29, 1844.*

The joint standing Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the subject respecting the French spoliations, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That the subject of the claims of the citizens of this State, and other States of the Union, in the United States, respecting the spoliations of the French prior to the year 1800, has been long before Congress; reports on which, favorable to the payment thereof, have from time to time been made, and as long and as often passed by without adjustment.

The subject is one at the present time which the public have been called on to take into consideration, that justice may yet be done by our General Government to many of her suffering citizens, in repaying to them the property so long kept from them.

The justice of the claims has been examined by various committees, and always admitted by Congress.

The United States ever urged on France the justice of the claims of her citizens for indemnity, and this was not denied by her ; but that Government brought forward counter claims—not against the claimants, but against the United States—for alleged breaches of national engagements.

The whole subject is believed now to be before Congress, and no other action of this Legislature is expected, than to invoke Congress to adhere to that sacred regard of justice and constitutional principles, which require that private property should not be taken for public use without a full and fair indemnity.

Your committee ask leave to report the resolves which are herewith submitted.

CHARLES BRADBURY, *per order.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES respecting French spoliations prior to the year 1800.

Resolved, That the Government of the United States are bound, by every principle of justice and national honor, to make speedy provision for the indemnification of those who suffered by French spoliation on the American commerce prior to the ratification of the treaty of 1800 ; that the General Government having by their treaties with France compromised all claims upon that Government for such captures and spoliations, and having received an equivalent, any longer delay to do justice to the claimants does not comport with national justice.

Resolved, That the Governor of this State be requested to forward a copy of this report and these resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress; and that they be requested to call the immediate attention of both branches of Congress to the subject, and use all their influence to procure the passage of a law making provision for those who suffered by the French captures and spoliations aforesaid.

Approved February 1, 1844.